

Breakfast on the Farm Gearing Up for Another Exciting Year of Fun (and Pancakes)

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THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

Every day you can find pockets of inspiration. It might be on a backroad where farmers are working hard to make our state a better place to live and raise a family or it could be across the street at the State House.

A few weeks ago, hundreds of our sugar makers invited their neighbors and visitors to see how they make real Vermont maple syrup. Steam was rising from the rafters. You could get raised donuts, sugar-on snow and of course a pickle. Some were even serving up the first hotdog of the season that had been boiled in sap. And then there were the lessons. Sugar makers are always happy to teach others the craft of turning sap in to maple syrup. Many leave the sugarhouse saying, "I want to do that someday." Thank you sugar makers for opening up your houses and your hearts to the world. It's inspirational.

You also can find inspiration from our young farmers. For a couple of hours recently our farmers were able to get away from their chores and come to the State House. They were there to honor a legend. Dr. Cal Blessing of Vermont Technical College has spent his career helping young people succeed. Twenty years ago, he helped develop the 2 plus 2 scholarship program, which has enabled countless students to attend Vermont Technical College in Randolph and then spend two years at the University of Vermont. This program has changed lives. You could see it played out at the Cedar Creek Room at the State House. Dozens of former and current students packed this special room to give a big thanks to Dr. Blessing. There were tears and hugs as Governor Phil Scott honored this educational giant with a proclamation. Thanks Dr. Blessing for the vision,



Steam rising into the rafters at Silloway Maple in Randolph Center, VT.

inspiration and the reminder that we never stop learning. You continue to make our state a better place for our farmers and all of us. Well done.

Anson Tebbetts, Secretary of Agriculture

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www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov

ANSON TEBBETTS
Secretary of Agriculture

HANNAH REID
Editor

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Breakfast on the Farm

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industries' contributions to local agriculture, tourism, etc.

"Breakfast on the Farm is not only a fun event for the whole family," says Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts. "It's also a great way for Vermonters to connect with their local farmers and better understand the role that dairy plays in our state. ...plus there will be pancakes!"

The event organizing team, which includes the Vermont Agency of Agriculture in partnership with New England Dairy promotion, will seek to build on the success of last year's Breakfast on the Farm Events, which drew nearly 2,000 visitors to two Vermont farms for dairy fun, facts and pancakes.

"Dairy products from Vermont farms are top quality, and it is

important to our region that people support their local dairy farmer," said Bill Rowell, owner of Green Mountain Dairy and 2016 Breakfast on the Farm host. "Our Breakfast on the Farm event (last year) was an opportunity for those who participated to see for themselves the practice of caring for the cows,

and producing a quality food product on today's dairy farm."

To buy tickets and learn more about Vermont Breakfast of the Farm visit: www.vermontbreakfastonthefarm.com

For more information about The Role of Dairy in Vermont visit: www.vermondairy.com.

Letter from the Editor

As we bid adieu to winter and another stellar maple season and say hello to the growing season, I must say my own goodbye to *Agriview* and my role as editor. It has been a great pleasure and privilege to help curate the content of this fine agricultural publication over the last year. Big thanks to the *Agriview* audience for your support and feedback. I look forward to joining the ranks of avid *Agriview* readers in the next few weeks – eager for the next installment of *Agriview* – which, like this issue – will be brimming with news and information from the Vermont agricultural community.

Thank you!

— Hannah Reid, *Agriview* Editor

NEWS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Updates to Federal Worker Protection Standards Aim to Better Protect Employees from Pesticide Exposures

By Doug Johnstone,
Vermont Agency of Agriculture,
Food & Markets Field Agent

As many Vermont farmers may be aware, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently made updates to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS), a federal regulation designed to reduce the risks of illness or injury to workers and handlers from occupational exposures to

pesticides used in agricultural production. The goal of this most recent revision, which went into effect in 2017, is to better protect workers and handlers from pesticide-related occupational exposures, and to provide protections comparable in other industries.

Our pesticides team at the VT Agency of Ag is developing a series of articles to help Vermont farms that utilize pesticides understand the

new WPS regulations and help keep themselves and their employees safe. This first installment covers the basic WPS information.

About WPS

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is federal regulation originally issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1992 designed to reduce the risks of illness or injury to workers and handlers from occupational exposures to pesticides used in the production of agricultural plants on farms, in forests, nurseries and enclosed space production facilities like greenhouses. The WPS was revised in 2015 and went into effect January 2, 2017.

The basic principles of the WPS are to inform, protect and mitigate.

- Inform employees about exposures to pesticides

through safety training and information, access to application information and safety data sheets (SDS), notification of treated areas and information exchange between commercial handlers and agricultural employers.

- Protect employees by excluding workers from treated areas, application exclusion zones (AEZ), treated areas under an REI, ensure handlers and early-entry workers are at least 18 years old, provide and maintain PPE, monitor handlers and protect early-entry workers.

- Mitigate pesticide exposures by supplying decontamination supplies, including eyewash water and provide emergency assistance.

Who does the WPS apply to?

The WPS applies to all agricultural establishments that use WPS-labeled pesticides in the production of agricultural plants. An Agricultural Use Requirements box similar to the one below is included on every WPS-labeled pesticide.

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AGRICULTURAL USE REQUIREMENTS

Use this product only in accordance with its labeling and with the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR part 170. This standard contains requirements for the protection of agricultural workers on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses, and handlers of agricultural pesticides. It contains requirements for training, decontamination, notification and emergency assistance. It also contains specific instructions and exceptions pertaining to the statements on this label about personal protective equipment (PPE) and restricted entry intervals. The requirements in this box only apply to uses of this product that are covered by the Worker Protection Standard. Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted entry interval (REI) of 12 hours.

PPE that is required for early entry to treated areas that is permitted under the Worker Protection Standard and that involves contact with anything that has been treated such as plants, soil or water, is coveralls over long-sleeved shirt and long pants, socks and shoes and chemical-resistant gloves made of any waterproof material such as polyethylene or polyvinyl chloride and protective eyewear.

VERMONT AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May:

- May 6 – Vermont Green Up Day. More info: <http://www.greenupvermont.org>
- May 15 - Fundamentals of Artisan Cheese at Sterling College. More info: <http://bit.ly/29HRQeh>
- May 16 – 2017 Working Lands Enterprise Board Grantee Announcement & Celebration Event. More info: <http://workinglands.vermont.gov/>
- May 17 - Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility

Conference, Burlington.

More info: <https://vbsr.org/event/vbsrs-27th-annual-spring-conference/>

- May 22-24 - 3rd National Farm Viability Conference, Albany, NY. More info: <http://www.farmviability-conference.com/>
- Legislature Adjourns

June:

- National Dairy Month!
- June 1-4 - Vermont Dairy Festival, Enosburg Falls. More info: www.vermont-dairyfestival.com

- June 2-4 – Strolling of the Heifers, Brattleboro: <http://www.strollingoftheheifers.com>
- June 17 - Breakfast on the Farm, Fairmont Farm, East Montpelier More info: www.vermontbreakfastonthefarm.com
- June 17-18, Vermont History Expo. More info: www.vermonthistory.org
- June 25-27 – Summer Fancy Food Show, NYC. More info: <http://bit.ly/1FFkk0y>

July:

- July 22nd Breakfast on the Farm, Blue Spruce Farm, Bridport. More info: www.vermontbreakfastonthefarm.com

For more Vermont agricultural Community Events Visit:

- The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Events Calendar: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/events/month>

- UVM Extension Events Calendars: http://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension_event_calendars
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar: <http://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/events>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of VT Events Calendar: <http://nofavt.org/events>
- DigIn Vermont Events Calendar: <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>

Warmer Weather is Almost Here!

Here's What You Should Know About Mosquito and Tick Safety This Summer

By Patti Casey, Vector Management Coordinator, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Most mosquitoes in the northeast do not pose a health hazard, but are instead considered to be nuisance mosquitoes. A small percentage of mosquito species in Vermont are capable of transmitting disease, and many of those do not feed on humans, preferring to bite birds or amphibians. When environmental conditions are right, it is possible for some disease-carrying mosquitoes (called primary vectors) to transmit disease to other mosquito species (called secondary vectors) that do feed on humans and other mammals. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Market's (VAAFMM) Mosquito Surveillance Program works to detect when this happens and notifies the Vermont Department of Health, which decides when and if any intervention is needed. More information about mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile Virus, Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), and Zika virus can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/outdoor/mosquito-borne/default.html>

The risk for contracting a mosquito-borne illness in Vermont is very low. However, you should still take precautions against

being bitten by mosquitoes to protect yourself and your family.

Here's What You Can Do to Protect Yourself Around Your Home and Garden

- Empty birdbaths, wading pools, and plant pots or saucers twice weekly. Put the wading pool inside if it's not being used.
- Empty and cover storage and trash containers to prevent water collection.
- Remove any containers that hold water, like pails, drums, bottles, cans, and old tires, even bottle caps.
- Clean rain gutters, drains, ditches, and culverts to remove leaves, trash, or weeds that prevent drainage.
- Inspect outdoor pipes, hoses, and faucets for leaks, and make any needed repairs.
- Anything covered with tarps – be sure the tarp itself doesn't provide



pockets of water for breeding.

- Boats, canoes, kayaks – invert or cover them so they don't catch and hold water, or bring them inside.
- Outdoor toys and gardening tools – same thing.
- If you have a pool, make sure it's well maintained and looked after if you go away.
- Stock water gardens with goldfish that feed on mosquito larvae.
- Fill soil in ruts or puddles that form in heavy rain.
- Use sand or concrete to fill tree rot holes and hollow tree stumps.
- Reduce vegetation in and around your yard that harbors biting insects – keep the grass cut.

- Trim shrubs and trees that overhang porches and decks.

When You Go Outside

- Cover up with light-colored long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Avoid unnecessary dawn and dusk outdoor activity.
- Use an EPA-approved insect repellent.

For more information, visit www.CDC.gov, www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov, or www.HealthVermont.gov

About the VT Agency of Agriculture's Vector Management Program

Our Vector Management Program conducts statewide mosquito and tick surveillance to help monitor insect populations that may harbor diseases that affect humans and livestock. For our mosquito program, we have a network of trap sites around the state that are visited at least weekly; mosquitoes are collected, brought back

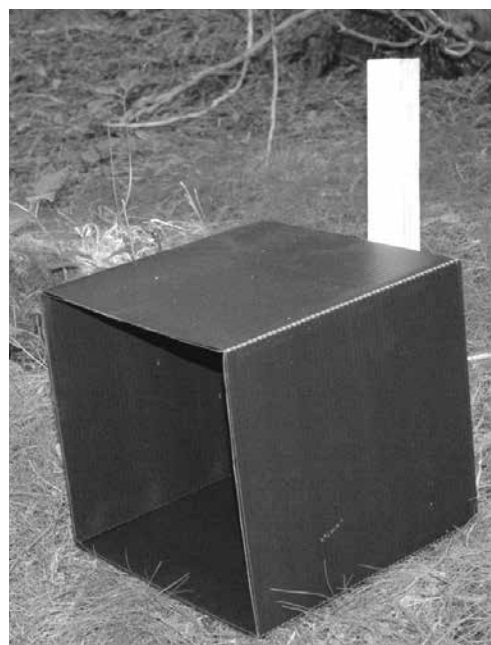
to our Berlin lab, identified to species, and sent to the Vermont Department of Health Lab in Colchester for disease testing. Positive results are monitored carefully by the Health Department.

Our field technicians are a hard-working crew of men and women who put in long hours in some pretty swampy places. Our lab folks are equally dedicated, spending their days staring into microscopes and counting mosquitoes.

We rely largely on the generosity of landowners and farmers like yourself to grant us access to floodplain fields, swamps, and other areas so we can conduct our surveillance. We do our best to track down all landowners in advance of trapping, but sometimes we have a hard time finding people to check in with. We always leave a letter in a ZipLoc bag with contact information at the site. If you see our traps on your property (see photos below), please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We can often find another suitable spot if you prefer we not use your land. If you run into any of our field techs, say hi – they're all very friendly and trained to answer any questions you may have.

Rest assured we're out there working hard to keep you and your livestock safe!

Contact: Patti Casey, Vector Management Coordinator, 522-6858.



Resting box trap (left); CDC light trap (right)

NEWS FROM THE FOOD SAFETY & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

Maple Season Update

By Henry Marckres, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Consumer Protection Chief and Maple Specialist

Vermont's maple season has been a bit of a roller coaster up to now. Many of the larger producers began tapping their trees in late December and in January. Most of the others tapped in February, with a few sticking to the traditional tapping time of around Town Meeting Day.

For those tapped early, they had a few really good runs in January and February. The conditions during March have been up and down, with it being either too

warm or cold. Cold nights and warm days are needed for sap to run. Those with vacuum get runs slightly earlier than those with buckets or gravity pipeline.

Reports of production are quite varied this year. Many of the larger producers are around 75% of a normal crop right now, with others reporting from 25% to 60% of a crop. Weather conditions look promising, with predictions for the season to wrap up by late April.

The quality of the syrup has been great, with wonderful maple flavor. All in all, we are looking for a normal crop of excellent syrup. Well done, all!



Dan Childs from Brookfield Bees

Ben DeFlorio for VT Agency of Ag

Worker Protection Standards

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Who is allowed to handle pesticides?

Agricultural establishments may hire commercial pesticide handlers to apply pesticides, or they may hire workers and handlers, or both. A worker is anyone who is employed, including self-employed, in exchange for a salary, wages or other monetary compensation and

is performing tasks directly related to the production of agricultural plants, such as:

- weeding
- replanting
- pruning
- watering
- harvesting

A handler is anyone who is employed, including self-employed, in exchange for a salary, wages or other monetary compensation by an agricultural or commercial pesticide handling establishment that uses pesticides in

the production of agricultural plants. Handler tasks include, but are not limited to:

- mixing, loading, applying or disposing of pesticides
- handling of opened pesticide containers that have not yet been cleaned
- flagging
- repairing or adjusting equipment that may contain pesticides or pesticide residues
- application assistance such as incorporation or dipping of plant cuttings into pes-

ticides

- entering treated areas post-application for label required ventilation purposes, a restricted-entry interval (REI), or before ventilation criteria have been met
- performing certain crop advisor tasks

Stay tuned for more information:

Details of who needs to comply with the WPS and how will be upcoming in

Agriview. Topics will include the WPS implementation timeline, new training requirements, PPE and respirators changes, and impacts to small farms.

To learn more about WPS and view the *How to Comply* manual visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/pesticide-worker-protection-standard-how-comply-manual> or contact Anne Macmillan of the Agricultural Resource Management Division at 802-828-3479.

VERMONT AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- **Required Agricultural Resources (RAPs) Resources:** <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap>
- **Agency of Ag's New Tile Drain Report** now available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- **Vermont Agency of Agriculture Annual Report** now available here: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about_us/budgets_reports
- **Farm First:** Confidential help with personal or work-related issues. For more info call: 1-877-493-6216 anytime day or night, or visit: www.farmfirst.org

- **Vermont AgrAbility:** A free service promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families. For more info call 1-800-639-1522, email: info@vcil.org or visit: www.vcil.org

For more agricultural resources visit our Funding Opportunities & Resources for Businesses webpage at: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities

Vermont Agency of Agriculture Announces Listening Tour Response Plan

Input Gathered at Statewide Tour will help Shape 2017 Agenda

By Alison Kosakowski,
Director of Communications,
Vermont Agency of Agriculture,
Food & Markets

Throughout February and March, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets held a Listening Tour to gather feedback and ideas about farming in our state. Over the course of six weeks, the Agency hosted meetings in Lyndonville, Brattleboro, Middlebury, St. Albans, and Montpelier. More than 300 farmers and community members attended. Today, the Agency is announcing a plan to address the Listening Tour feedback.

"The suggestions and ideas shared by participants were insightful, and covered a wide range of topics," said Ag Secretary, Anson Tebbetts. "The feedback was diverse, but four main themes emerged."

On the whole, here's what was shared, and how the Agency of Agriculture plans to address it:

The Next Generation

What we heard: Vermonters want to ensure the next generation has opportunities to work in agriculture, and has access to land. They want young people to feel excited and optimistic about careers in agriculture.

What we'll do: We will work with UVM, Extension, Vermont Technical College,



Alison Kosakowski

Participants at the Middlebury meeting smile for a photo.

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, and the career centers to promote educational programs that get future farmers ready to take the reins. There are many existing programs, like 4-H, that do great work to get young people engaged – we'll work hard to promote these opportunities and build awareness, to get more kids involved. We'll also continue to partner with the Vermont Housing Conservation Board and Land Trust to improve access to land.

Rules and Regulations

What we heard: Many of the folks who spoke up at the Listening Session told us they feel burdened and overwhelmed by regulations.

What we'll do: The current administration has made a commitment to limit new regulations. The Required Ag Practices (RAPs) were adopted in December of 2016. We are committed to working with farmers to implement them in a way that is fair. We have recently formed the RAP Advisory Committee, which includes farmer representatives and stakeholders involved in water quality issues. The role of this board will be to advise the Agency on

the roll-out of the RAPs, to ensure they are effective, attainable, and take into account real-farm practices.

Customer Service & Relationships

What we heard: Some folks told us they find it difficult to get in touch with key Agency of Agriculture staff, and that the Agency needs to do a better job with customer service. They also felt we need to work harder to build positive relationships across the entire farming community.

What we'll do: We have begun an Agency-wide audit of our customer service practices. Over the next three months, we will be working closely with managers, inspectors, and technical assistance providers to identify the ways in which we can improve customer service across the Agency, and improve relationships. As a first step, this week, we published a contact list for all Agency personnel on our website. You can find it at http://agriculture.vermont.gov/contact_us. This will help ensure you are able to contact the right person to help address your need. We are committed to improvement.

Communications

What we heard: There's a lot going on, and sometimes farmers find it hard to get the information they need. The Agency needs to do a better job communicating.

What we'll do: In order to ensure farmers have timely access to the information they need, we are now mailing complimentary copies of our Agency newspaper, Agriview, to all Vermont farmers on a monthly basis. Over the course of the next year, we will also redesign our

website, so that it is more user-friendly. The Agency is also encouraging people to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, to get instant access to daily news, resources, and agricultural information.

"This is just the beginning. Each comment shared with us at these meetings helps inform the decisions we, as a new administration, make each day on the job here in Montpelier," said Alyson Eastman, Deputy Secretary.

"We are committed to working with our farming community, to grow the economy, make Vermont affordable, and enrich our communities," added Secretary Tebbetts. "Thanks to all who came out to share their thoughts."

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Dolcetti of Newport, Vermont to process, package and offer for sale ice cream and ice cream mix in the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets
Dairy Section Office
116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

All written comments must be received by April 15th, 2017.

At that time the Agency will make a determination as to whether a hearing will be held. If we determine that a hearing is necessary and you wish to attend please write to the above address attention Dairy Section.

NEWS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Spring Means CSA Season!

Vermont Farmers get Creative with CSA Models to Foster Stronger Customer Connections

By Alissa Matthews, Direct to Consumer Markets Coordinator, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

While the snow melts and the Vermont landscape is momentarily saturated with mud, farmers are planning for the busy season ahead. Greenhouses are packed with sprouting plants, farm stands are opening around the state, some outdoor farmers' markets will be up and running as early as Mothers' Day, and Vermonter's eager to experience the local variety of agricultural products available seasonally are signing up for their favorite Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) share.

CSAs are an important piece of Vermont's local food economy, and contribute to the roughly \$189 million spent on local food in Vermont every year.* Across the local food landscape, the CSA model is one of the most direct ways to connect consumers to the land and people that grow their food. CSA programs are a great opportunity for farmers to build long-term relationships with customers, while trying out new varieties of produce, marketing their eggs and meat, and building partnerships with other farms to offer a wider variety of ag products.

Over the years, Vermont



farmers have worked hard to create viable CSA models, constantly testing new ideas and implementing new approaches in order to find

the right formula for them. From year-round models, to strange new veggies, to u-pick options, to on-farm events, to unique drop-

off sites including libraries, churches, coffee shops, spas, gyms, yoga studios and offices, CSAs in Vermont take many different forms and reflect the inventiveness and ingenuity of our Vermont farmers and result in increased customer trust and loyalty. As the local food movement continues to grow in Vermont and nationwide, many farms now offer multiple payment options to their CSA members, including sliding scales, payment plans, credit cards and EBT payments, increasing the accessibility of local foods to

more Vermonters.

A comprehensive directory of Farm Stands, CSAs, and Farmers' Markets throughout Vermont can be found at http://agriculture.vermont.gov/DTC_Markets.

To add your farm to the listing, complete the survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VAAFM_DTC.

Also, visit NOFA-VT (<http://nofavt.org>) or DigInVT (www.diginvt.com) to find out more details and locations for direct to consumer markets and events throughout Vermont.

* www.vtfarmtoplate.com

Census of Agriculture Countdown Begins For America's Farmers And Ranchers

Published by the USDA

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to represent agriculture in their communities and industry by taking part in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census, to be mailed at the end of this year, is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them.

"The Census of Agriculture remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every county in the nation," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "As such, census results are relied upon heavily by those who serve farmers and rural communities, including federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations, extension educators, researchers, and farmers and ranchers themselves."

The Census of Agriculture highlights land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and other topics. The 2012 Census of Agriculture revealed that over three million farmers operated more than two million farms, spanning

over 914 million acres. This was a four percent decrease in the number of U.S. farms from the previous census in 2007. However, agriculture sales, income, and expenses increased between 2007 and 2012. This telling information and thousands of other agriculture statistics are a direct result of responses to the Census of Agriculture.

"Today, when data are so important, there is strength in numbers," said Hamer. "For farmers and ranchers, participation in the 2017 Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future, and their opportunity to shape American agriculture – its policies, services, and assistance programs – for years to come."

Producers who are new to farming or did not receive a Census of Agriculture in 2012 still have time to sign up to receive the 2017 Census of Agriculture report form by visiting www.agcensus.usda.gov and clicking on the 'Make Sure You Are Counted' button through June. NASS defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year (2017).

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture and to see how census data are used, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540.

Do You Need to Certify as a Certified Small Farm Operation Under the New Required Agricultural Practices?

By: Ryan Patch, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

- Do you have 50 or more mature dairy cows?
- Do you have 75 or more heifers?
- Do you grow 50 or more acres of corn, sweet corn, soybeans or pumpkins?
- Do you have 40 or more horses?
- Do you grow 50 or more acres of vegetables?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above and are not currently a permitted Medium or Large Farm Operation, the Agency of Agriculture's new Small Farm Certification program will apply to your operation beginning July 1st this year.

Don't worry – we're here to help!

The Certified Small Farm Operation (CSFO) program is a new opportunity for the Agency of Ag to work closely with you and your operation to understand water quality standards, assess needs, and access Vermont's robust, statewide partner network of conservation planning technical and financial assistance programs.

As a CSFO, the first date to be aware of is July 1, 2017 — this is the date when the one-page (front and back), certification form will need to be submitted to the Agency of Ag on a

yearly basis. The certification form and instructions for its completion and submission for 2017 will be printed the June issue of *Agriview*. There is no fee for enrolling in the CSFO program.

Regular inspections will be an important part of the new CSFO program. The current inspection cycle is estimated to occur on a seven-year interval, at minimum. The Agency has produced a new video to assist you in better understanding the inspection process for new CSFOs, called What to Expect When You're Inspected: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/SFO-video>

In addition to completing the annual self-certification form and participating in regular inspections, you will need to begin learning about the process of developing a formal, written Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) if you do not already have one. There are many resources available to support you in writing your own NMP, or to hire a consultant to work with you to write a NMP for your farm.

Farmer water quality training and education is another important part of the CSFO program, and will be a requirement for all CSFOs, as well as medium and large farms. The focus will be on farming practices that support and protect water quality, and will be incorporated into the already

robust curriculum available through UVM Field Days and other educational events, as well as through online videos. Four hours of approved training will be required over

the next five-year period for all farmers, starting July 1, 2017.

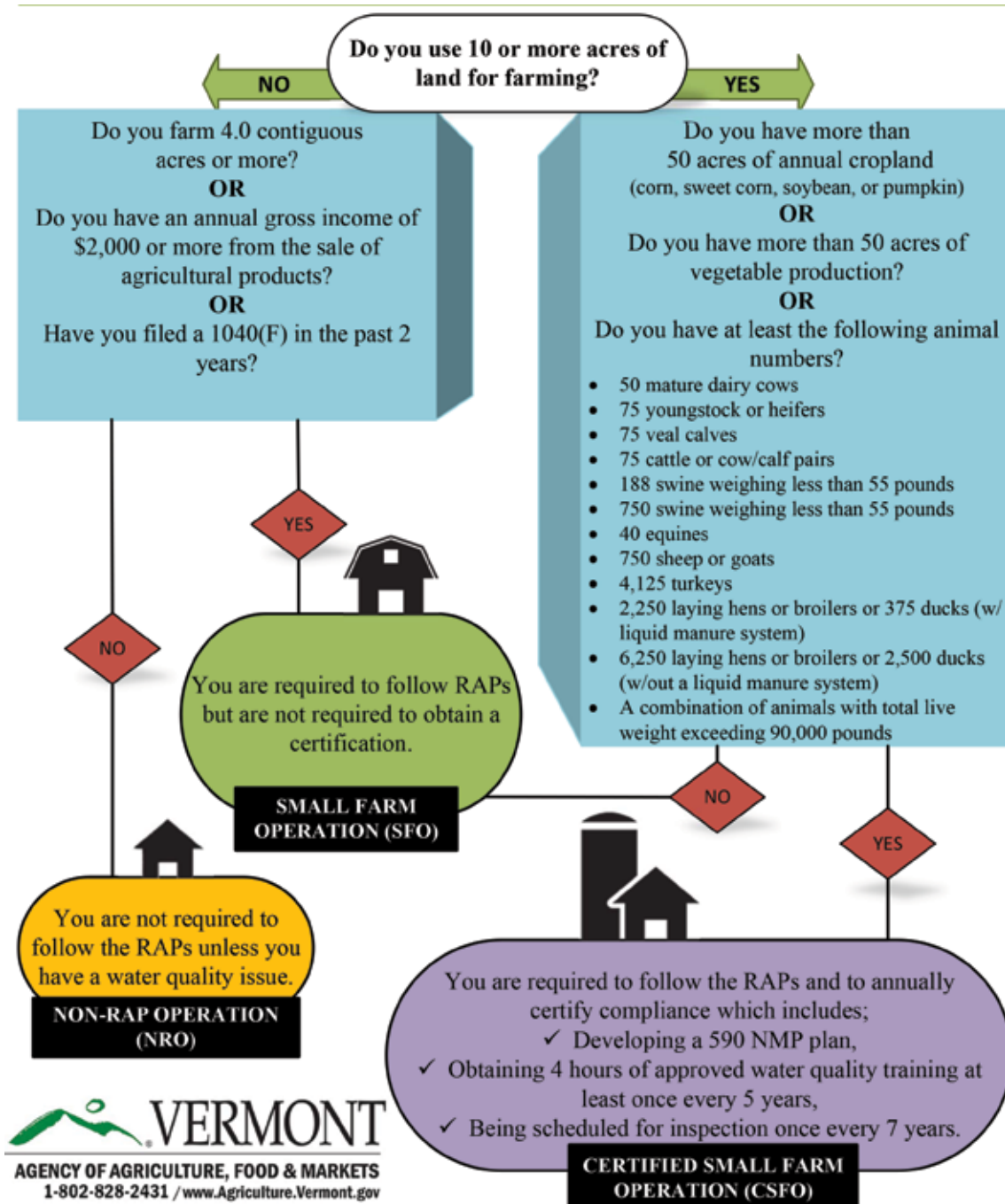
Finally, as a CSFO, you will need to ensure continued compliance with the

management requirements outlined in the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) as passed in December of 2016. The management

continued on page 9

Do I Need to Certify as a Certified Small Farm Operation Under RAPs?

Follow the Diagram Below to Determine Your Farm Classification Size



WATER QUALITY DIVISION

*Farmer Profile:***Vermont Farmers Install Grassed Waterways**

By Nina Gage, Water Quality Team, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

According to Wayne Fiske of Franklin Vermont, grassed waterways are a win-win situation: “a win for the farmer and for water quality.” Grassed Waterways are planted grass strips that serve to slow water runoff from crop fields and act as an effective conservation buffer. They are planted in low lying areas where water runoff is concentrated, and according to the NRCS, “grassed waterways significantly reduce gully erosion.” While a grassed waterway works to slow water runoff and prevent erosion — farmers can still use the area for hay so they aren’t losing any productive acreage.

“The top six inches of top soil on your farm is the most important asset you have, so why let it leave your farm?”

— Jeff Sanders, UVM Extension

In 2016, Fiske was one of three Vermont farmers who installed grassed waterways on their farms in Franklin County to help improve water quality. The project was funded through a cost-share structure with funding from the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) and the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP). Fiske commented that, though he had to put



Wayne Fiske's field, before (left) and after planting a grassed waterway.



Photos by Jeff Sanders, Farmers Watershed Alliance

time and equipment into the project, he was very impressed with the outcome and found the grassed waterway to be 100% effective.

Gille Rainville of Fairfax, who also installed grassed waterways on his farm last year, reported that considering the amount of work that was done, the cost-share structure of the program didn't put too much of a dent in his wallet.

“My goal was to slow the water down, and that is exactly what grassed waterways do,” said Rainville. “I think it's going to work out really well.” After seeing improvements in runoff last fall, Rainville is considering installing a second grassed waterway in another field.

While these two northern Lake Champlain farmers are just a few of the many farmers working statewide to improve water quality by implementing conservation

practices on their farms, they are great examples of how farmers, and the watershed organizations who support them, have already had a positive effect on water quality in Lake Champlain and throughout Vermont.

While this coming 2017 growing season will be the first season guided by the new Required Agricultural Practices, there are a wide range of resources available to Vermont farmers, includ-

ing technical and financial assistance for conservation practices for improving water quality. In addition to state and federal resources and local conservation districts, your local farmer's watershed organizations can be an excellent resource.

Get in touch with your local watershed organization today!

- Farmer's Watershed Alliance, Franklin & Grand Isle // Darlene Reynolds //

(802)-752-5156

- Champlain Valley Farm Coalition // Brian Kemp // (802)-388-4969 x 348
- Connecticut River Watershed Farmers Alliance // Paul Doton // (802)-457-2230

For more information about the RAPs and resources for Vermont farmers, visit: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality> or contact AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov. (802) 828-2431.

RAPs

continued from page 8

requirements outlined in the RAPs include setting crops and manure back from ditches and waterways, protecting floodplains with cover crops and timely manure applications, and ensuring livestock do not over graze or negatively impact waterways while grazing in or around them.

Again, we're here to help!

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets will continue to work hard in the coming months and years to ensure that Vermont farmers have access to the broadest possible network of resources and supports on federal, state and local community levels, to help understand the RAPs and make necessary adjustments. Don't hesitate to call us at

the Agency of Ag with any questions you might about the RAPs, your farm size, the certification process, available resources, etc. The direct phone number for the water quality section is (802)-828-2431. Don't forget, your local Natural Resource Conservation District is also available to answer questions and provide assistance.

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,
University of Vermont
Extension
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or
vernongrubinger@uvm.edu
www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

Reports From The Field

(Shaftsbury) Foxglove aphids on our greenhouse tomatoes. Using *Aphidius ervi* for those. Weeds in overwintering greens houses had green peach aphids. Pulled ALL the weeds and tilled in. Releasing *Aphidius colemani* in bedding plant houses for preventative aphid control, and also using *Amblyseius* cucumbers for thrips.

(Burlington) Strange thing in our tunnel lettuce: exuding salts through guttation, crystallizing on the outer leaf margin and looking like a bright white fuzzy disease. Gabrielle up at the UVM Plant Diagnostic clinic ran it down, thankfully not powdery or downy mildew. Salt levels were not terribly high in that house when we tested last fall. We had an entire house go down to spinach downy mildew in a few short weeks in March. We were growing Corvair, a cultivar not resistant to race 14, so the odds on bet is that we have race 14 on the farm. Our other spinach Regiment in other houses is so far unaffected. We mowed, flamed, and tilled the infected spin-

ach, and it looks like we have excellent mortality to kill off the spinach downy mildew, our latest obligate parasite.

BT Now Available For Use On Colorado Potato Beetle

Trident, a recently approved B.t. for control of Colorado potato beetle, is an important alternative to Spinosad in order to avoid resistance. However, B.t. only works well on small larvae. Scout your crops so you can time applications when larvae are still small, and actively feeding. Getting good coverage of all the foliage is also important. Save the Entrust for control of adults if necessary. Here's a great UMass Veg Notes from 2008 on management of CPB, including scouting and a good picture of the eggs: <https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/newsletters/vegnotes-06-12-08.pdf>

Update On Omri-Approved Pesticides

Eric Boire, Consultant, Crop Production Services, Addison VT (Eric.Boire@cpsagu.com)

With spring around the corner, it's good to take a moment and recognize newly registered products as well as revisit some that have been flying under the radar. With the disclaimer that I work with multiple organic suppliers here at CPS in Addison Vermont, I am going to highlight some products from Certis USA which calls themselves "The Biopesticide Company." By my unofficial count they have 27 OMRI-certified products, most of which are registered here in Vermont. Here are 6 of these products and their uses that you should know about. All can be applied up to the day of harvest and have a

4-hour reentry period. But always check the label for instructions prior to using a pesticide.

Trident contains B.t. (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *tenebrionis*) and is labeled for control of Colorado potato beetle on potato, tomato and eggplant. Treatment should start shortly after hatch; apply every 7-14 days. The recommended rate is 3 quarts/acre in a minimum of 20 gallons/acre of water. Cost is about \$20 per application.

PFR-97 contains *Isaria fumosorosea* and is labeled for control of insects and mites on a wide variety of crops. Apply at 1 lb/acre but do not tank mix with fungicides.

Trilogy contains 70% neem oil, for control of light populations of soft bodied insects, mites and various fungal diseases. Toxic to bees if they come in direct contact.

Deliver is a B.t. (*Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki*) product that is labeled caterpillar pests on a wide variety of crops. Because of its concentration, a 0.5 lb./acre rate is effective.

Cueva contains copper octanoate, a unique copper formulation with a fatty acid "soap." It contains less copper per application than many other formulations. Approved for use on many fruits and vegetables. The rate is 1-2 quarts/acre.

Double Nickel is a bactericide/fungicide containing *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* and it has multiple modes of action. It can be used foliar or in furrow and it works well with most insecticides/fungicides. Rate is 1 quart in furrow or 2 quarts foliar per acre.

(Editor's note: see <https://>

www.certisusa.com/organic_crop_production.htm for a list of all the Certis OMRI-labeled products and links to their labels.)

Spinach Downy Mildew Update

Meg McGrath, Cornell University

I am aware of 16 occurrences of downy mildew in spinach in the northeast since 2014 (NJ, CT, MA, NY, VT, and ME). That doesn't sound like a disease to be concerned about, but I am because the pathogen is related to pathogens causing basil downy mildew and late blight, it also produces wind-dispersed spores, and it has equal destructive potential. This is being documented in the west, especially in organic crops with half overall going unharvested I hear, which equates to \$3 million/week. Losses are due to pathogen's ability to overcome genetic resistance in spinach (there are now 16 known races) and inability to effectively control the disease with organic fungicides.

What we know about this disease in our region: Races 12, 14 and a 'novel' type have been identified, but samples from most occurrences were not tested. Most cases have been in winter high tunnels; rest were spring plantings. Based on observations from growers, conditions in high tunnels are not very favorable for downy mildew (likely too cold) except during long periods of leaf wetness (such as when row cover put over wet plants). Resistance to downy mildew can be very effective. Past spring occurrences were promptly destroyed, thus the pathogen did not have much opportunity to spread.

Management recommen-

dations for the northeast:

1. Select varieties with resistance to at least races 12 and 14.
2. Check plants carefully for symptoms at least once a week including winter plantings that so far have not been affected. Conditions are becoming more favorable as temperature and humidity increases.
3. For crops not managed organically, apply conventional fungicides preventively or at first symptom (Actigard, Aliette, Merivon, Quadris and other QoI fungicides, ProPhyt and other phosphorous acid fungicides, Ranman, Reason, Revus, Ridomil Gold, Tanos). Downy mildew is difficult to manage with organic fungicides based on experience of researchers and growers in CA. Labeled products include copper, Actinovate, Double Nickel, Regalia, Oxidate, Trilogy, and Zonix. Copper is considered most effective but based on few evaluations of organic products
4. Report suspect occurrences promptly to your state extension specialist so that we can keep everyone generally aware of occurrence in the region, samples can be submitted for race identification to guide variety recommendations, and we can improve our knowledge about this disease.
5. Destroy spinach crop if symptoms continue to develop despite management practices or right after final harvest even if no downy mildew seen. It is important to control the amount of inoculum in the region to minimize opportunities for spread

continued on page 13

MARKET REPORT

Wholesale Prices

October 2016

Wholesale prices paid per dozen for Vermont Grade A brown eggs delivered to retail stores.

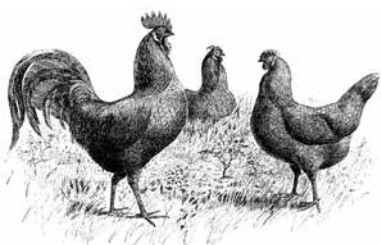
Vermont Egg Prices:

Jumbo \$1.57
 X-Large \$1.09
 Large \$0.99
 Medium \$0.61

You can find more reports online at

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm>

This is the web source for *USDA Market News*



Vermont Agency of Agriculture - USDA Market News

Addison County Commission Sales — East Middlebury, VT

Livestock Auction Report for April 3, 2017

	Cattle	Calves
This Week:	107	215
Last Week:	113	214

Compared to last sale, slaughter cows sold 5.00-7.00 lower on good demand. Slaughter cattle supply included 105 cows and 2 bulls. All prices quoted per cwt.

SLAUGHTER COWS:

	% Lean	Avg. Dressing	High Dressing	Low Dressing	Very Low
Premium White	65-75	—	—	—	—
Breakers	75-80	62.00-66.00	—	55.00-60.00	—
Boners	80-85	59.00-65.50	65.00-66.00	54.50-56.00	—
Lean	85-90	55.00-63.00	—	50.00-54.50	45.00-47.00

SLAUGHTER BULLS: 1225-1920lbs: High Dress 85.00-96.50

CALVES: Holstein bull calves sold steady on moderate demand. All prices per cwt.

HOLSTEIN BULL CALVES:

Number 1: 80-120 lbs 81.00-115.00.

Number 2: 80-120lbs 70.00-92.00.

Number 3: 70-120 lbs 60.00-85.00.

Utility: 70-120 lbs 35.00-52.00.

HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES: 76-101lbs 70.00-140.00.

Price and grade information is reported by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture-USDA Market News Service. While market reports reflect the majority of livestock sold at each sale, there are instances where animals do not fit reporting categories and are not included in this report.

SOURCE:

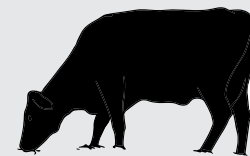
VT Agency of Ag-USDA
 New Holland-Lancaster County, PA

Darryl Kuehne
 Market Reporter
 Cell: 802-793-5348

Levi Geyer, OIC
 Cell 717-406-7350 / Office 717-354-2391

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/MP_LS141.txt

For all USDA Livestock and Grain market reports:
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/LSMNpubs/index.htm>



CLASSIFIEDS

Bees & Honey

5 Frame nucs/queens for sale at \$165 per nuc; \$32 for queens. Order on line at www.vtbees.com or call 802-948-2057. We sell Northern Survivor stock queens. Send a \$40 deposit for each nucs.(6/17)

Cattle

Holstein X Jersey Heifer for sale. Bred Due April 2017. \$800 obo Delivery Available call 802-779-5490 (5/17)

One Gomer Steer/bull 2.5 yrs old \$1658 OBO. 4 Guernsey heifers open, breeding size, \$1200 each, \$4000 all. OBO 802-763-8104 (5/17)

Jersey heifer's yearlings 22 to choose from. Out of DHI herd 802-524-9453 (3/17)

Angus Bulls 18 mo's old. Good dispositions. From registered herd. \$1,800. Angus cows bred and registered. Due April 2017 several to choose from Greensboro, VT. 802 533 9804 (5/17)

Boarding for dairy replacement heifers, 400 lbs. and up.

Breeding service offered. Mixed ration feed. Price dependent on quantity. Weybridge, VT. Contact Dan Kehoe at 802-545-2688. (5/17)

Scottish Highland heifer 7 mons. old \$550. SHxWF heifer 5 mons. old. \$450 (5/17)

Purerbred polled hereford yearling heifers. Lull Brook Farm 802-436-2068 (6/17)

Two American Milking Devon registered cows for sale. Take your pick of five at \$2,000 each or best offer. Five to eight years old. They ran with a registered bull last fall and should calve in June. Also, four registrable yearling American Milking Devon heifers at \$800 each. And, two grade Devon cows, four and eight years old, expected to calve in June, at \$1,200 each or best offer. Newbury. Tel. 802-584-3769, chascall2@fairpoint.net

Black Angus cow/calf pairs \$1400-2200, yrings \$700-

850, and some brood cows for sale. AI bred, good dispositions, excellent mothers. Feeders consistently graded M1 at sales. Cows calving late March thru late May. Contact via email please. (6/17)

Herefords-Purebred-Polled-Bull 3yrs\$1500.00 OBO offspring on site also cows/ calves 7 total asking 7000.00.(6/17)

Employment

Hannaford Career Center Diesel Technology Program in Middlebury seeks diesel repair projects. Accepting donations of diesel equipment, offering very low-cost preventative maintenance and minor repairs of farm and over-the-road diesel trucks and tractors. Call for more details, Len 802-382-1005f (5/17)

Caretaker/rental in Cabot. Operate large tractor, gardening, chain saw, farm sitting. Private rental house \$800/mo. July 15th-April 30th. Flexible start date. 30

hrs/wk summer. 7-10 hrs/wk winter. Supplemental income needed in winter. \$15/hour, more with extensive experience. Call Israel 563-6061(6/17)

Equipment

International 815 Diesel Combine, 843 4 row narrow Cornhead, 820-13 Grainhead; 3250 Reel Auggie Mixer on gas 1995 Ford 450 2wd. New Holland 166 hay merger with turchute. Call for prices. 802-770-0959 (5/17)

75 gal. Gas water heater never used; Delaval 50 cow 2" stainless steel pipeline complete with vacuum pump; 600 gal. Mueller bulk tank; 32 Agway water bowls. Call for prices. 802-770-0959 (5/17)

J&L Haysaver round bale feeders for sale. Cone-style. Heavy-duty, significantly reduce hay waste, Amish-made. Low-profile feeders also available for weanlings and smaller animals. Horse feeders also available. Call or

e-mail for more information. vtangus@gmail.com or 457-1520 (5/17)

Pulling Hames 2 pair Wallingford model W H 8 aluminum pulling hames 21 inch excellent condition \$200 Livewater Farm Putney Vt 802 387 4412 (5/17)

Tire chains heavy duty studded 50% worn size 14:00x24 will fit others \$400 obo. 250 gallon fuel tank with pump and hose, good shape \$150 802-223-2813 (5/17)

7.5 ft min mount plow fits 93-up GMC or Chevy. Complete \$400. New Holland side spreader mo #304, 1000 gallons works but needs repair \$800 as is. New Holland parts hay bind (#489- 488) BO 802-899-3102 (5/17)

Field ready international 470 12' transport dics harrows 9" spacing x22" cutaways recent bearing \$1725 (802-644-6567)

334 feet Bodco barn cleaner

CLASSIFIEDS

chain 18 inch paddles
counter clock wise. 300 feet
stainless steel milk line 2 inch

Bou-Matic Receiver jar (glass)
2 inch, milk pump and water
trap. Bender washing system.
Dairy-Kool deco Matic 3 bulk
tank washer. 6 Bio milker
claw and shells. 7 stimopals C
Westfalia pulsators. Call 563-
2715 (5/17)

John Deere 24 T balerfield
read, always under cover. Lull
brook farm 802-436-2068
(6/17)

1991 White 125 Workhorse
Cummins Diesel tractor for
sale. New rubber, full cab, air
& heat, 4-wheel drive, ready
to work. Asking \$22,500
OBO. Contact Dan at 802-
545-2688 (6/17)

General

Kiln dried Eastern White Pine
shavings available in bulk
quantity. Pick up or delivery.
Call Cyr Lumber in Milton,
VT for pricing. (802) 893-
4448 (5/17)

New Holland Model 144
Windrow Inverter \$1500.
Gehl 980 forage box factory
roof 3 geaters 6'x7'x18'
mounted on Pequea 1268
tandem axel chassis \$1600.
Model 165 Massey ferguson
tractor \$9500, OBO. Liquid
Nitrogen tank for AI semen
\$100 OBO. 802-763-8104
(5/17)

Tires 18-4-34, 13-6-38 like
new. 18 ton brock grain bin
very good shape. 791 New
Holland spreader. 2 - 5hp
motor. 1-9hp motor. 90 feet
roof top elevator. 802-895-
4683 (5/17)

High Tunnel Hoophouse
Assembly & Maintenance:
Rimol Ledgewood, &
Harnois. Complete Assembly,
End Wall Construction, Poly
Installation, Repairs, etc.
Experienced, Professional,
Affordable Service! Contact
Mike Feiner at (802) 498-
8031, feinervt@gmail.com,
www.vineripe.net (5/17)

6ft barbed wire \$2.50, 6ft
electric \$2.25, 5ft \$2.25, 10ft
\$6.00. Post for high tensil
fence 8ft 5-6 in \$9.00 802-
754-8855 (6/17)

Short of room but have plenty
of feed? Heifer boarding
farm in Weybridge, Vt will
consider taking feed for
partial payment of heifer
boarding. Free stall space
available for heifers 400lbs
and up. Contact Dan at 802-
545-2688 (6/17)

Goats

Nubian X Alpine doelings for
sale from small organic herd.
Born spring 2016. Handsome,
healthy, horned, and bred
to reg. purebred Nubian
buck. Top milkers on both
sides. Contact Penelope at
poneggfarm@hotmail.com or
(802) 723-4014. (5/17)

Lazy Lady Farm is taking orders
for the 2017 March/April
kidding season. Over 25 years
of breeding fine milking does.
2300 lb herd average. DHIA
tested. CAE & CL free herd,
tested annually. Discounts
for group purchases of 10 or
more. Award winning cheese
operation. Please visit our
website for listings and prices.
www.lazyladyfarm.com Call
Laini 802-744-6365, laini@



lazyladyfarm.com. Westfield,
Vt (5/17)

Hay, Feed & Forage

Canadian Western Alfalfa for
sale, Hay for sale, round
bales, big and small bales
also available. Call Richard
at 802-323-3275 for more
information (5/17)

Corn silage - 1st crop grass
silage and 1st & 2nd crop
dry 4 ft round bales. 802-
424-6110 or 802-748-9868
(5/17)

Western Canadian Alfalfa for
sale large square bales, also
hay big/small squares, round
bales, and straw for sale.
Tractor trailer loads only. Call
Richard for more info at 802-
323-3275 (5/17)

CORN SILAGE: Excellent
quality, processed corn silage;
500 tons; 35-40 starch.
\$50 ton, delivery available
for additional cost. Robeth
Holsteins, Rochester, VT. PH:
802-767-3926 Email: beth@
libertyhillfarm.com (4/17)

Square bale hay excellent
quality certified organic. Big,
never dusty bales 1st cut
\$4.95/bale, 2nd cut \$5.25/
bale Sorry no delivering 802-
592-3088 (6/17)

03 Hillboro deckover trailer
model 700 10 ton \$4500.
JD 24T bailer \$2000. Both
in good condition and kept
under cover. 802-254-5069
(6/17)

4x5 round bales-grass-hay mix
802-265-4566 (Best to call
6-7 am or pm or leave a
message) (6/17)

1st cut, 3rd cut and corn silage
layered in the bunk. Excellent
feed. We can load your truck.
Selling at \$40/ton for haylage
and \$50/ton for corn. Call
802-533-2984. (6/17)

Sheep

Sheep and goat equipment
including feeders and panels.
All wood construction. My
12 opening six sided feeder is
\$150 picked up at the farm
in Rockingham Vt. Some
delivery is available. 802-376-
5474 (5/17)

Premier sheep chute guillotine
stop gate 2 way sort gate etc
\$1575 obo 802-644-6567
(5/17)

Border-Leicester x ewes \$100
each. Black or white. Magnus.
802-592-3320 (6/17)

Quality Border Leicester
Sheep For Sale: From a
healthy closed flock. Many
lambs, yearlings and 2-5
year olds. Registered and
purebred. Contact Sue
Johnson suejohnson@gmavt.
net or 802-482-2507. \$100
up. Multiple sheep discount
prices available. (6/17)

Sugaring Equipment

100 + Wearner taps (sprouts
VG condition \$100. 802-674-
5044 before 8pm (6/17)

Wanted

Dairy cattle, heifers, beef cows,
feeders, bulls, steers, sheep,
and goats. 413-441-3085
(5/17)

6 FT DISC HARROWS,
PRETERABLY WITH A 3
POINT HITCH. 802-438-
5068. (5/17)

John Deere 2630 tractor, Gale
1309 slinger manure spreader.
802-695-2286 (5/17)

Looking for 1941 "AGR" farm
license plate for a farm plate
collection. Any condition.
802-885-5405 (5/17)

Wisconsin motor 2 cycle baler
type starter type. Leave
message 603-826-3246
(6/17)

ENGINEERING FOR AGRICULTURE

**Multidisciplined engineering
and environmental services for:**

*water quality
stormwater
waste storage facilities
roofed barnyards
structural design
heavy use areas
wetlands
conservation buffers*



Contact: Andy Hoak, PE, PG
802-728-3376
ahoak@dubois-king.com

**DuBois
& King** inc.

Randolph, Brandon, South Burlington, Springfield

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@VTAGENCYOFAG



Vegetable & Berry News
continued from page 10

and keep downy mildew impact low. Sources of the pathogen for the recent occurrences have not been identified.

For more information and photographs see: <http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/SpinachDownyMildew.html>

NRCS Equip Sign-Up
Deadline April 14

There are lot of farm practices for which you can receive funding. Learn more <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/vt/programs/financial/equip/>

Open Farm Week 2017 is scheduled for August 14-20th and registration is now open! To find our more information or to submit your event(s), please visit <https://www.diginvt.com/blog/openfarmweekforfarmers/>. New this year, we have funds to provide resources & TA to a limited number of arms that would like support developing ideas and preparing for visitors. If interested, please apply by May 15th on the Open Farm Week registration form at the link above.

Direct Markets
Survey

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets is partnering with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont to conduct an annual Direct-to-Consumer Market Survey for VT Producers. Participation is voluntary, but it helps us to: Update our directory of Vermont farm stands, CSAs and farmers' markets; facilitate consumer awareness about these market; gain

a better understanding of Vermont's local food economies; and, better address needs of these markets. Please take 10-15 minutes to complete this direct-to-consumer market survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DTCProducers>

Sales and economic data will only be shared in aggregate form in reports, individual responses will NOT be shared publicly. Questions? alissa.matthews@vermont.gov or 802-505-1661.

Direct Market
Technical Assistance
Available

NOFA-VT has a USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program grant to provide one-on-one technical assistance to 12 direct market farms, helping them implement new business and marketing strategies. Farms will have access to two years of support from a farm service provider with up to four on-farm visits in year 1 and up to two on-farm visits in year 2, along with regular check-ins. Farms receiving this TA will commit to contribute to our collection of Vermont direct market benchmark data and provide feedback on the tools and resources we are developing for the direct market farm community. Eligible direct market farmers must have been in business for at least three years, and must complete an application by April 16. Contact Jen Miller at jen@nofavt.org or 434-4122.

Past Vermont Veg & Berry Newsletters
Are Posted At:
<http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/newsletter/datenavbar.htm>

Vermont Farmers' Market Report

Friday March 31, 2017

Produce						
Not Certified Organic			Certified Organic			
Apples	\$1.20	\$1.50	\$1.35	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$1.75
Beets	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.23	\$2.40	\$3.00	\$2.60
Cabbage	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Carrots	\$1.65	\$3.00	\$2.09	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.33
Celeriac	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Garlic (per lb)	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$11.50			
Garlic (per bulb)	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.50			
Herbs (per bunch)	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$3.13
Kale (per bunch)	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.50
Leeks	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25
Mixed Greens (per lb)	\$10.00	\$18.00	\$11.90			
Mixed Greens (per bag)	\$5.00	\$5.25	\$5.04	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$5.42
Onions	\$1.65	\$2.50	\$2.19	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$2.63
Parsnips	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.67	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Potatoes (fingerlings)	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.33	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00
Potatoes (all other varieties)	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.25
Radish (Daikon)	\$2.50	\$5.00	\$3.50	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.33
Rutabaga	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$1.75	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$1.75
Shallots	\$4.00	\$10.00	\$6.71	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$6.80
Spinach (per lb)	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$10.50			
Spinach (per bag)	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$5.50	\$5.00	\$8.00	\$6.00
Sweet Potatoes	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$4.00	\$3.25
Turnip	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$1.53	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$2.75

Meats/Proteins			
Lamb Chops	\$12.00	\$18.00	\$15.10
Rack of Lamb	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$17.25
Leg of Lamb	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$12.25
Ground Lamb	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$10.50
Ground Beef	\$6.00	\$9.25	\$7.45
Ribeye	\$12.60	\$24.50	\$16.90
Sirloin	\$8.00	\$18.00	\$12.22
Round Roast	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$9.53
Chuck Roast	\$8.00	\$11.00	\$9.31
Strip Steak	\$14.00	\$23.00	\$17.19
Skirt Steak	\$9.00	\$18.00	\$11.93
Tenderloin	\$18.00	\$29.50	\$22.22
Beef Stew	\$7.80	\$10.00	\$8.83
Short Ribs	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$6.74
Eggs (per dozen)	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$5.03
Whole Chickens	\$3.85	\$8.00	\$5.19
Ground Pork	\$6.25	\$8.50	\$7.74
Pork Chops	\$6.00	\$13.00	\$8.87
Pork Loin	\$7.00	\$14.00	\$11.33
Pork Tenderloin	\$10.00	\$16.00	\$12.64
Shoulder Roast	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$8.49
Ham	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$8.19
Baby Back Ribs	\$7.50	\$10.00	\$8.64
Sausage	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$8.51
Bacon	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$10.56

Market Comments

SEASONALITY:
Availability at the markets is continuing to decrease.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:
Mixed weather throughout March caused unpredictable attendance from producers and customers.

VENDOR COMMENTS:
N/A



Source:
VT Agency of Ag - USDA
New Holland-Lancaster County, PA
Alissa Matthews, Market Reporter
802-828-5824
[E. Alissa.Matthews@vermont.gov](mailto:E.Alissa.Matthews@vermont.gov)

Levi Geyer, OIC
Cell: 717-406-7350
Office: 717-354-2391

2017 Junior Iron Chef Competition Demonstrates Outstanding Culinary Skills Among Young Vermonters

By Ali Zipparo, Farm to School Coordinator, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Hundreds of Vermonters from all over the state came to smell and taste the talent of Vermont's best youth chefs at the 10th Annual Junior Iron Chef competition on March 18 at Champlain Valley Expo. Celebrity judges including Jerry Greenfield (Jerry of Ben & Jerry's), Stuck in Vermont's Eva Sollberger, Half Pint farmer Mara Welton, and Vermont Agency of Agriculture's very own, Deputy Secretary Alyson Eastman had the honor of sampling dishes inspired by cultures from all over the world.

Student teams wore colorful and creative uniforms—including full chef coats—and had names like "Jalapeno Hotties" from Vergennes Union High School and "Thai Tigers" from The Sharon Academy Middle School. Most of the teams competing were from schools that have received Vermont Farm to School Grants in the past, demonstrating a strong connection between culinary interest and the grant program.

Dishes were complex for even the most seasoned home chef, and focused on using locally produced ingredients. Dozens of farms from around the state were represented on this year's competition menus, including 19 local ingredients used to make Super Salsa Sopas



The Burlington School Food Project's Junior Iron Chef Team "Fork in the Road" posing for a photo with Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Alyson Eastman. Team Fork in the Road is comprised of Junior Chefs: Mohammed Diini, Menuka Rai, Kajal Rai, Som Dahal and Milan Magar.

by the "Iron Eagles" from Essex Middle School. Dishes like "Around the World with Stuffed Pretzels" by the Cheftains from Green Mountain Union High School, Vermont-a-Boli by the Food Marauders from Northfield High School, and "ant marahhab bik huna" a Yemini kabab by the Food Fighters from Centerpoint School's were enjoyed by judges and lucky spectators. According to the Centerpoint School's student chefs, their dish was made specifically to honor the many refugee members of the Winooski community and make them feel more welcome.

Deputy Secretary Eastman spent the morning judging, tasting, and meeting inspiring student chefs, child nutrition professionals, farmers, parents, and other community members who served as coaches and spectators.

"Junior Iron Chef is a wonderful way to include

students of middle to high school age in making healthy eating decisions and buying local for their meal programs within the school," said Deputy Secretary Eastman. "After judging the event, it's clear to me that students are eating dishes that they may not experience at home!"

The Burlington School Food Project's Junior Iron Chef team, Fork in the Road, won the Mise en Place (translated to: everything in its place) award, which goes to the team that shows exemplary teamwork, order, and professionalism in the kitchen. Fork in

the Road team coach and chef, Menuka Rai said, "We all said we enjoyed cooking and didn't need to win. But when our names were announced we were SO surprised!"

Many Junior Iron Chef alums have gone into careers in the culinary industry, including 2017 judge Andrew Merinoff, who has spent his entire career in the industry, inspired by his time as a Junior Iron Chef. Perhaps in a few years we will be watching some of our very own Vermont Junior Iron Chefs on the cooking channel!

Junior Iron Chef is an event run by Vermont FEED (Food Education Every Day), a project of Northeast Organic Farming Association Vermont and Shelburne Farms, with support from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

Attention Vermont Youth Farmers!

Vermont's Youth Agricultural Individual Development Account (YAIDA) program invites you to join its next group of participants!

YAIDA is the first program of its kind in the United States specifically for young women and men ages 14 to 21 who are engaged or interested in farming.

The program provides:

- Financial literacy education
- Farm business management training
- On-farm mentorships
- 2:1 savings match
- Educational workshops



- Access to Vermont's network of agricultural experts
- Opportunities to learn from and collaborate with other farmers

Participants who complete the program receive:

- Up to \$1,000 for the purchase of a productive farm business asset
- Farm business management skills
- Completed business plan
- Guidance on the way to joining the next generation of Vermont farmers

For more information visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/vtyouthaida/>

Farm to Plate Reports Out on Progress To Date

By Rachel Carter, Director of Communications, Vermont Farm to Plate

Vermont Farm to Plate is a program of the Vermont Legislature, administered by the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund to:

- Increase economic development in Vermont's farm and food sector;
- Create jobs in the farm and food economy; and
- Improve access to healthy local food for all Vermonters.

The Vermont Legislature tasked the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund with conducting a public engagement process and developing a statewide food system plan (Farm to Plate Strategic Plan, 2011-2020) to reach the goals of the legislation (economic development, jobs, access).

Vermont's Farm to Plate food system plan is the most comprehensive statewide plan in the country and is being implemented by the Vermont Farm to Plate Network—over 350 farms, food production businesses, specialty food producers, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, capital providers and government agencies working together to create a viable, sustainable and resilient food system to produce and distribute our food.

Each year, the Farm to Plate Annual Report to the Vermont Legislature reports on the progress to date and the challenges being addressed.

Challenges Being Addressed

- **Protect and Expand Affordable and Environmentally Sustainable Farmland in Agricultural Production:** Access to affordable and environmentally sustainable farmland is imperative to increase our local food supply and grow our agricultural economy. The Farm to Plate Network is creating strategic partnerships and tools to address a continuum of farmland access issues including farm succession planning, farmland conservation, and farmland investment, leasing, and matchmaking. The Network is also working to improve soil and water quality through research, monitoring, information sharing, and training.
- **Improve Viability of Farms and Food Businesses:** If farms and food businesses are not profitable, Vermont's agricultural economy cannot be sustainable. Cost and scales of production, sales in different market channels, food safety, business management, infrastructure and equipment, distribution, and environmental impacts all play roles in overall business viability. The Farm to Plate Network addresses these variables by identifying effective business models and building trust and transparency along entire supply chains (e.g. Vermont's meat industry) to help farmers and producers profitably sell into wholesale, retail,

and other markets.

- **Increase Local Food Availability and Affordability in All Market Channels:** In order for local food to be accessible to all Vermonters, it needs to be more readily available and affordable where most Vermonters purchase food. The Farm to Plate Network works to open new wholesale market channels at institutions and grocery stores in Vermont and New England, while supporting Vermont's restaurant and direct market channels. The Network seeks to make local food available in these market channels more affordable to consumers through incentive programs, procurement policies, and more efficient supply chain logistics.
- **Increase Consumer Engagement and Demand for Local Food:** When consumers demand more local food, it sends a signal to the marketplace for more local food to be produced, distributed, and available to Vermonters. The Farm to Plate Network has developed the Rooted in Vermont grassroots change



The Vermont Legislature's intended outcomes for the Farm to Plate Investment Program and our progress to date



Increase economic development in Vermont's farm and food sector

\$10
BILLION

Food System Gross Sales (food production, manufacturing, trade)
Up from \$7.6B in '07

\$1
BILLION

Net Value Added Food Manufacturing
Per year



Create jobs in the farm and food economy

+6,000

Jobs
Since 2009

+779

Businesses
Since 2009



Improve access to healthy local food for all Vermonters

11.4%

Food Insecure Vermonters
Down from 13.6% during Great Recession

1,627
TONS

Food Rescued by Vermont Foodbank in 2015

movement to increase consumer education and demand for local food. As farmers and producers scale up production and additional market channels (retail, restaurants, institutions, direct sale) are opened to more Vermont food, Rooted in Vermont aims to stimulate increased awareness, participation, and purchases in Vermont's local food economy.

- **Meet Food System Employment Needs in Positive Work Environments:** As the farm and food economy grows, more jobs are created which creates

workforce opportunities and challenges for both employees and employers. Coordinated Farm to Plate Network activities are helping prepare and educate students to meet the growing workforce needs of food system employers. The Network is also working to help farm and food businesses improve their human resources management so that workers have better working conditions and wages, while the businesses have a competitive advantage to recruit the workers they need.

Learn more at www.VTFarmtoPlate.com.

VTCutWithConfidence.com

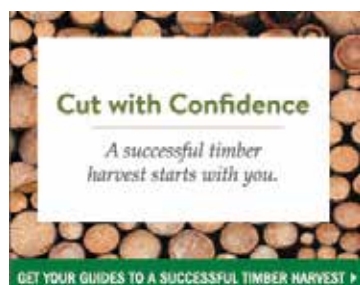
Introducing the Landowner Guides to a Successful Timber Harvest

By Joanne Garton, Outreach Coordinator, Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

A timber harvest, when done correctly, can be a valuable tool to support the overall health of the woods. But a harvest can be a stressful time for some landowners. Those who love their woods want to take care of them in the best way they know how. And that care can come with a lot of questions.

To prepare landowners for a successful harvest, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has created a series of simple guides to explain the processes behind selecting and cutting timber and remove some of the confusion about the how, what, where and why of timber harvests. Pulled from recommendations already in the 2015 Voluntary Harvesting Guidelines, these brochures give landowners knowledge and guidance in digestible, pocket-sized booklets that are also downloadable online.

- The Overview brochure includes tips on how to plan harvest goals and discusses the five major steps of a successful timber harvest.
- The Wildlife brochure outlines the characteristics of woods that make them home to wildlife and suggests ways to maintain a complex forest structure that supports wildlife habitat.
- The Water brochure reviews the importance of



the many types of water features that may be on a property including ponds, wetlands, vernal pools and springs.

- The Economics brochure examines the many ways to measure timber, explores the dollar value of timber, and lists the elements of a good contract for a harvest.
- Working with Foresters & Loggers discusses which professionals are involved in a timber harvest, advises on how to communicate well with these professionals, and outlines who does what in a timber harvest.

The Landowner Guides to a Successful Timber Harvest are for the landowner considering a harvest of forest products from his or her land, whether this year or years in the future. Wisely planned harvests can support

forest health while maintaining and even enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting water quality, and encouraging opportunities for outdoor recreation. Whatever the objective, these guides promote landowner education and empowerment through practices that encourage effective planning and strong communication between foresters, loggers and landowners.

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is coordinating the release of the Cut With Confidence campaign with over 20 partners committed to working with landowners interested in forest health and management. A launch event on April 7, 2017 covered the primary goals and motivations of the campaign. Partners left with a take-home package of hard-copy brochures and electronic outreach materials ready to share on their webpages, social media sites and in e-newsletters.

Visit VTCutWithConfidence.com to download printable guides and access

other resources provided by Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Or contact the Department directly to obtain printed

brochures or more information about landowner outreach and timber harvests – joanne.garton@vermont.gov or 802-249-4217.

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